

"DANKA PETKOVA – 90 " MT

AWARD

by IGM PETKO A.PETKOV

A record number of 112 originals were sent in for the DANKA-90 Memorial Tourney which was dedicated to memory of my unforgettable mother Danka Petkova (1920-1993). In this special competition for help-self problems of any kind, the number of participants is 59, from Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Morocco, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain and Ukraine.

It was a great honour to me that almost all the world's best authors in this genre participated in this tournament. The quality of problems is exceptionally high and I thank all the authors for their interest in this competition!

I have divided the originals into two groups: "A" – Help-self problems without fairy pieces or conditions and "B" – all other Help-self problems.

For many reasons it was not easy to make the award in this tournament. Computer-testing for 16 compositions was not possible because of a lack of programs capable of dealing with such problems. Also, computer-testing for 11 other problems was very difficult because of their length. Further, in this technical stage of my work I was very embarrassed by other phenomena which are, unfortunately, the Achilles heel of fairy chess composition at present. Thus, for example, I was most amazed to learn during testing that the third prize problem in section B (Crisan & Huber) is correct according to the old version of Popeye (4.55) and according to WinChloe, but not correct according to the new version 4.59 of Popeye, which gives many cooks! Most surprising, however, was the situation with Rittirsch's problem (2nd Prize in section B). According to Popeye, this composition has no solution! According to WinChloe the problem is correct! What are the reasons for these confusing differences? And how should the judge resolve such cases which, incidentally, I have encountered before in the fairy field? Because there still exists no official, generally accepted answer to this question, which of course concerns all possible fairy genres, I took the decision to recognise Rittirsch's problem as correct but with the following extra label: "According to the WinChloe version", or more briefly: "WinChloe version". More specifically, in interpreting Isardam this program accepts that paralysis between two pieces of different colours is impossible when these pieces do not have the power to capture! Conversely according to Popeye, these two pieces are paralysed even in cases when they are without the power to capture, but simply observe each other! (Such pieces are the Ba4 & Be8 in Rittirsch's problem).

I cannot say, of course, that my decision in this respect is the most or only correct one; there are obviously also other conceptions and many obscure questions, and I have been engaged with my colleagues in long attempts to comment on and elucidate these difficulties. For this reason I had practical difficulties which made it impossible to publish this award earlier; I beg pardon for this delay.

All participants have been e-mailed this award, which is preliminary of course. Please send your comments, remarks etc. by March 15th to Petko A. Petkov: ppetkow@mail.orbitel.bg.

Warm thanks to my friend Chris Feather for his language-check of this text!

SECTION A

Here there were 42 originals from 28 composers from 11 states. Four problems were eliminated because of cooks and two because of duals. The authors are being informed personally about these defects.

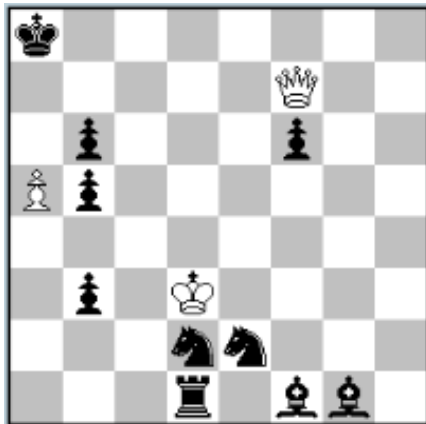
The strongly dominant thematic feature in this super high-level competition is battery-play which is shown, in its great variety, in 33 problems. In my opinion the eternal battery-ideas are very interesting and their wide range is well demonstrated in this tourney. In many compositions (mainly prize problems) a lot of modern and well known ideas are developed in a masterly way, often showing virtuoso technique!

An interesting phenomenon is that here the main accent is on black battery play, often in problems where the number of moves exceeds three. Different forms of white battery play were presented in only 5 compositions.

Mario Parrinello

Italy
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

1st Prize

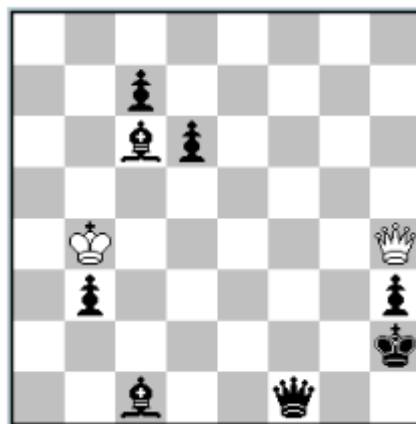


HS#4,5 (3+10)
b) Pb5 - d5

Ralf Kraetschmer

Germany
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

2nd Prize



HS#4 2 solutions (2+8)

Borislav Gadjanski

Serbia
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

3rd Prize



HS#3,5 2 solutions (3+8)

1st Prize - Mario Parrinello - A very ambitious design: transformation of a black battery followed by an Indian theme achieved by using the same black pieces! I believe that this very difficult complex is here shown for the first time with Knights as front pieces. Obviously here the white play is not so expressive (only the King's switchbacks deserve special interest in this respect) but as a whole this problem, composed with only 13 pieces, is an excellent achievement.

a) 1...Sc4+ 2.Ke4 Rd8 3.a6 Sd6+ 4.Kd3 f5 5.Qb7 + Sxb7 #;
b) 1...Se2-d4 + 2.Kc3 Ba6 3.axb6 Sb5 + 4.Kd3 d4 5.Qa7+ Sxa7 #

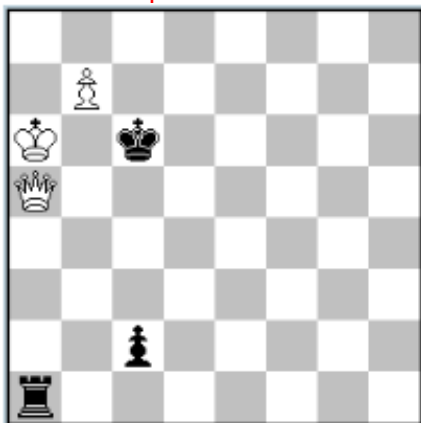
2nd Prize - Ralf Kraetschmer - The Indian theme using the black King as front battery-piece is not a new idea in this genre, but in spite of that, this setting is striking in its purity and economy. I believe that this is the first HS# problem in which this difficult thematic programme has been achieved in Meredith and with only two white pieces (a white Minimal!).

I. 1.Kxb3 Qh1 2.Kc2 Kg1 3.Kd1 Be4 4.Qf2 + Kxf2 #;
II. 1.Kc3 Bh1 2.Kd4 Kg2 3.Ke4 c5 4.Qg3 + Kxg3 #.

3rd Prize - Borislav Gadjanski - Creation of black batteries K/R and K/B after striking manoeuvres by the Rook and Bishop - an excellent and difficult idea which is partially akin to the well known orthodox Herlin theme! Good, economical use of black Material (Meredith!). Here the only disappointment is the insipid white play with its passively positioned white Queen.

I. 1...Rg1 2.Kd5 Sg5 3.f7 Rd1 4.Qxc3+ Kxc3#; II. 1...Ba3 2.Kf4 Sd6 3.Qe7 Bc1 4.Qxe2+ Kxe2#

Helmut Zajic(+) Austria
& Dieter Mueller
 Germany
 "Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Special Prize



HS#3 2 solutions (3+3)

Special Prize - Helmut Zajic (+) Austria & Dieter Mueller - A very surprising little problem showing the Dentist theme combined with a mixed A UW in Miniature form! Such pearls are a very good advertisement for the unique possibilities which the HS# genre offers!
I.1. b8=Q c1=B 2. Qa7 Ba3 3.Qc5+ Bxc5#;
II. 1.b8=R c1=S 2.Rd8 Sa2 3.Qc3+ Sxc3#

Abdelaziz Onkoud
 France
 "Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

1st Honourable Mention



HS#3 2 solutions (8+11)

1st Honourable Mention - Abdelaziz Onkoud - A nonstandard demonstration of a masked white half-pin combined with cyclic elements in the black play. Ambitious contents but the forms in not so aesthetic.
I. 1.c5 Bxe4+ (A) 2.d3xe4 Bxe3 3.Qxe3+ Sxe3# (B);
II. 1.Rc5 Sxe3+ (B) 2.dxe3 Rxe4 3.Qxe4+ Bxe4#.

Dieter Mueller
 Germany
 "Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

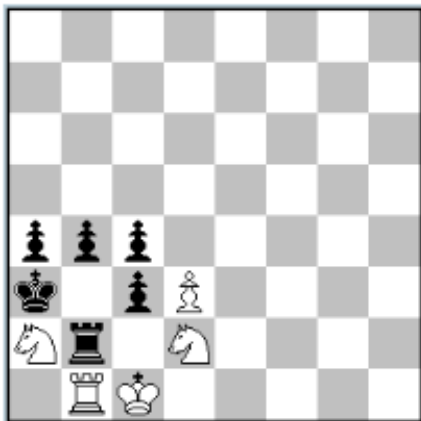
2nd Honourable Mention



HS#3 2 solutions (6+12)

2nd Honourable Mention - Dieter Mueller - The full destruction of black batteries after captures of front & rear pieces is not a new thematic element in this field. This "Total Zilahi" is here combined with white Q-promotions and black self-blocks but there is no full harmony between solutions and the construction is heavy.
I.1.f8=Q e6 2.Qxc5 exf5 3.Qxe3+ Sxe3#;
II. 1.a8Q exf4 2.Qxa2 e5 3.Qxc2+ Sxc2#

Juraj Lorinc
 Slovakia
 "Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Commendation



HS#3,5 2 solutions (5+6)

Commendation - Juraj Lorinc - A problem with anti-identical solutions (ANI - type), which is rather difficult to solve.
I. 1...Rxa2 2.Sb3 cxb3 3.Rb2 cxb2+ 4.Kb1 Ra1#;
II. 1...Rxd2 2.Sxb4 Rxd3 3.Sc2+ Ka2 4.Rb2+ cxb2#

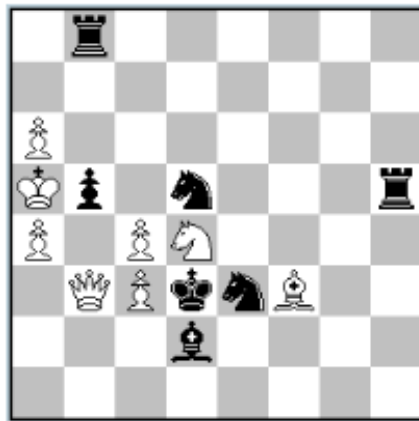
Dieter Mueller
 Germany
 "Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Commendation



HS#2 b) Kd4-c4 (5+6)

Commendation - Dieter Mueller - Interchange of functions in the play of two pairs of pieces: Qa1/Bh4 and Bc2/Re3.
a) 1.Qb2 e6 2.Se4+ Rxe4#;
b) 1.Bg5 e5 2.Sb3+ Sxb3#.

Valerio Agostini
 Italy
 "Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Commendation



HS#2 2 solutions (8+7)

Commendation - Valerio Agostini - Nice strategic contents but without full analogy between solutions.
I. 1.Bxd5 bxc4 2.Qxc4+ Sxc4#;
II. 1.Sxb5 Sxc3 2.Qxc3+ Bxc3#.

SECTION B

Here there were 70 originals by 46 composers from 14 states: 62 HS#, 7 HS=s and 1 HS==. Altogether 27 fairy conditions and 14 kinds of fairy piece were used, either independently or in various combinations.

14 problems were eliminated because of cooks, 7 because of duals and 2 because of predecessors. Their authors are being informed personally. Because of length or for other causes (mainly the lack of programs), 5 originals were not checked by computer, but their quality was not high.

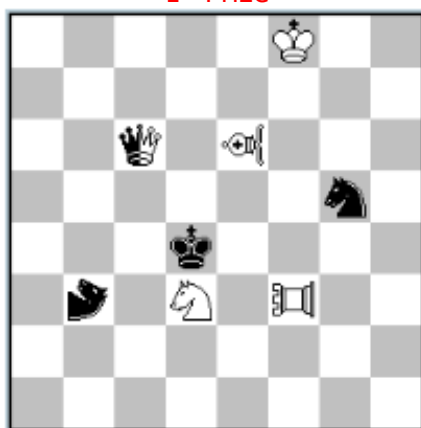
In my opinion, this section stands very high from the thematic point of view because of the difficult and nonstandard ideas which it contains, demonstrated mainly in the prize problems!

A nice advertisement for the tourney is also the beautiful economical constructions of most of the honoured compositions: 9 problems are miniatures!

Vlaicu Crisan

Romania
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

1st Prize



HS#3 b) Kf8-h2 (4+3+1)
SuperCirce
Zebra - b3
VAO - e6
PAO - f3

Manfred Rittirsch

Germany
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

2nd Prize

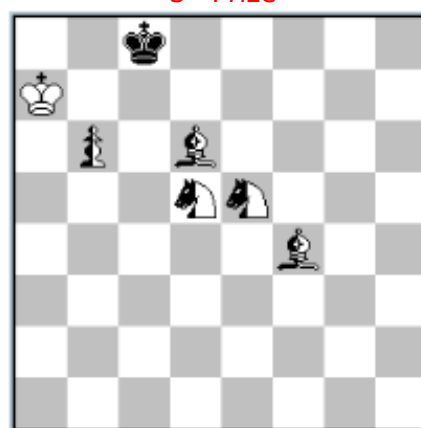


HS#3 2 solutions (6+14)
Isardam
Anti - Circe
Rose - e3, f5, h2
(Win Chloe version)

Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber

Romania
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012

3rd Prize



HS#4* 2 solutions (1+1+5)
Circe Parrain
Einstein

1st Prize - Vlaicu Crisan - Romania - Unique Super-Circe play with extreme activity of white and black pieces! The main thematic element here is the creation of two indirect white batteries S/PA and S/VA in every phase, combined with self-blocks by the VAO and PAO. This action is excellently executed using the neutral Queen, black Zebra and black S. Fine motifs here are also the white tries on the first move. This remarkably harmonious achievement ends with echo models as its final chords. A typical masterpiece from Crisan which once again shows the strength of the Romanian fairy school!

**a) 1.Sf4! (1.Sc5?) 1...nQxf3 (PAe7)
2.nQxb3 (Zc5) nQxe6 (VAg8) 3.Sxe6 (nQd2)++ Sxe6 (Sd3)#;
b) 1.Se1! (1.Se5?) nQxe6 (VAh1)
2.nQxb3 (Ze5) nQxf3 (PAg3) 3.Sxf3 (nQb4) ++ Sxf3 (Sc4)#.**

2nd Prize - Manfred Rittirsch - The most difficult problem in this tournament! Here the world-renowned German composer demonstrates an excellent synthesis between Anti-Circe and Isardam. The idea of activating the white Pb5 to give check to the black King is connected with a nice motif: deactivation of the two Bishops which create the "Isardam paralysis" of the Pawn. Analogous fine motives are seen also after promotions, the play of the Roses and in the nice final moves by the black ecto-battery which activates the black Pg7! Unfortunately, a heavy construction is inevitable here.

**I. 1.ROd6 a1=Q 2.h8=Q Qe5
3.ROec8+ Rd1#;
II.1.ROc4 a1=B 2.h8=B Be5
3.ROfc8+ Rc1#.**
(Correct according to Win Chloe version).

3rd Prize - Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber - A beautiful Miniature with optimal use of neutral material! A very rich demonstration of special effects but the real sensation here is, that there is even a **set-play!** : **1...nBfxe5=nR
2.nBb8=nS (+nSc7) nRxd5=nQ
3.b7(+nSd6)+ Kxc7 4.nSxb7=nB (+nSa8)+ nBxa8=nR#.
I. 1.nSg6=nP g5 2.nBxf4=nR gxf4=nS(+nBe3) 3.nBc5 =nS (+nRd6) nSxd5=nB 4.nSb7=nP (nSc7)+ nBxb7=nR#;
II. 1.nSc7=nP nBdx5=nR 2.bxc7=nS(+nSf6) Kd8(+nPd7) 3.nSxd7=nB nBxe5= nR(+nPc8) 4.nBxc8 =nR (+nRd6)+ Kxc8(+nPb8)#.**

(Problem checked with Win Chloe and Popeye 4.55).

Sven Trommler

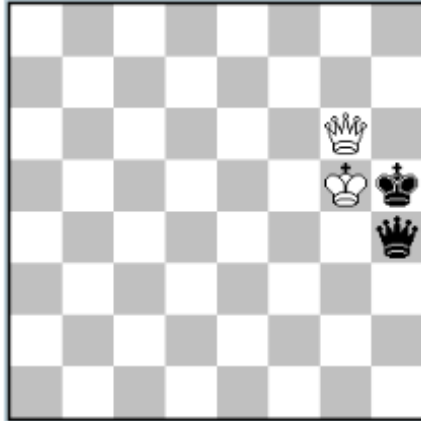
Germany
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
4th Prize



HS#3 3 solutions (9+10)
NAO - a7
VAO - b7
PAO - b6

Peter Harris

South Africa
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
5th Prize



HS#2,5 (2+2)
b) Rotation 180 (Kb4/Ka4)
Super-Circe
Sentinelles Pion Advers
Lortap

Geoff Foster

Australia
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
6th Prize



HS#2,5 b) Rd4 - c3 (4+5)
Diagram Circe

4th Prize - Sven Trommler - A very interesting and difficult complex with nonstandard play from both sides! Black creates anti-batteries with promoted pieces, using his King as front piece. White answers with action by the same kind of piece, as the one promoted by the opponent. Unfortunately, there is no full identity in the white play: the solutions after promotions to NA and VA are excellent, but in the "PAO duo" there is no creation of a white-anti-battery as there is in the other solutions.

I. 1.c4 a1=NA 2.NAd1 NAg4 3.Be3+ Ke5#;
II. 1.PAb4 f1=PA 2.PAa4 PAxf6 3.PAa5+ Ke6#;
III. 1.VAc8 d1=VA 2.VAxh3 VAf3 3.g4+ Ke4#.

5th Prize - Peter Harris - A funny four-man problem with three fairy conditions (a typical phenomenon in most miniatures by Harris!) and dynamic, surprising play. It is of course an ANI-composition: two non-identical phases with poetic finales.

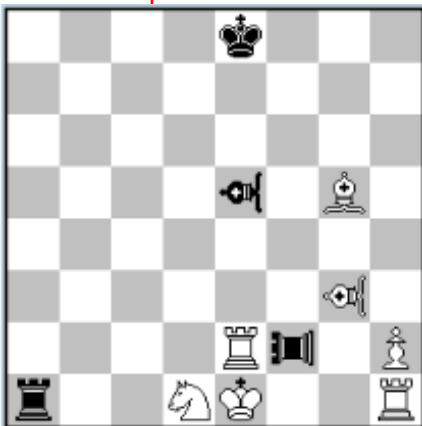
a) 1...Kg4 [+wPh5] 2.Qc2 [+bPg6] + Kh3 [+wPg4] 3.Kxh4 [+bQe3] [+bPg5] + g6h5 [+wPg3] #;
b) 1...Qb6 [+wPa5] + 2.Kc3 [+bPb4] Kxb3 [+wQc1] [+wPa4] + 3.axb6 [+bQa2] Kc4 [+wPb3] #

6th Prize - Geoff Foster - A very curious intention: in each solution a white double-check is answered by a black one. The positions after the first halfmove are identical, but the remainder of the solutions is entirely different! This is because the mating rook must move twice before giving mate.

a) 1...Rc3 2.Rd7 Rh4 3.Rc8+ Rxc8 (+wRc6) #;
b) 1...Rd4 2.Rc7 Rh3 3.Rd8+ Rxd8 (+wRd5) #.

Klaus Wenda

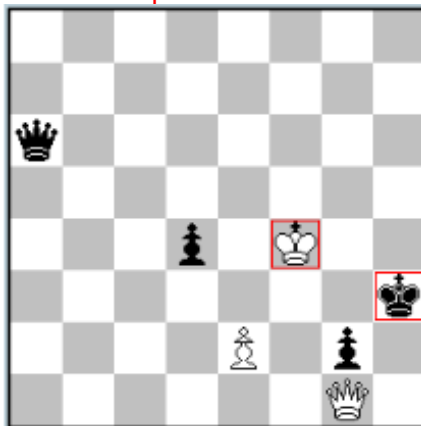
Austria
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Special Prize



HS#4,5 Anti-Circe (7+4)
Rookhopper - f2
Bishophoppers - e5, g3

Diyan Kostadinov

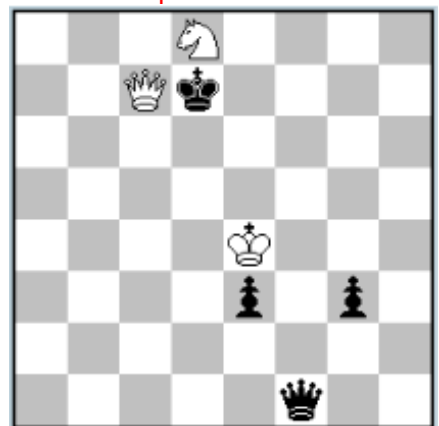
Bulgaria
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Special Prize



HS#3,5 b) - Pd4 (3+4)
KoBul Kings

Juraj Lorinc

Slovakia
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Special Prize



HS#3 b) Pg3 - d2 (3+4)
Patrol Chess

Special Prize – Dr Klaus Wenda – A very interesting idea, in typical Wenda style: the black Rook visits all 4 corners of the board, combined with two castlings! This programme would be surely difficult for every solver!

1...Rxd1(Ra8) 2.0-0 BHxh2 (Bhh1) 3.Rc1 0-0-0 4.Rc7 Rh8 5.Kxh1(Ke1)+ Rh1#!

Special Prize – Diyan Kostadinov – Interesting and difficult play with sacrifices, minor promotions and ideal mates. Fine finales with specific KoBul Kings effects and surprising economy – only 7 pieces!

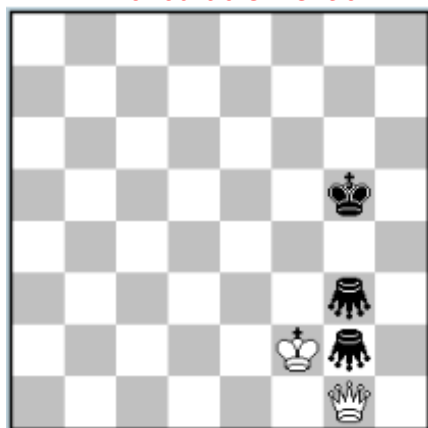
a) 1...d3 2.Qf1 gxf1=S (wKK=KKQ) 3.exd3 Se3 4. KKQxe3 (bKK=KKS) + Qxd3 (wKKQ=KK) # (not possible is 5.KKxd3 (bKKS=KKQ)? – self-check); **b) 1...Qe6 2. Qh1+ gxh1=B (wKK=KKQ) 3.e3 Bf3 4.KKQxf3 (bKK=KKB) + Qxe3 (wKKQ=KK)#** (not possible is 5.KKxe3 (bKKB =KKQ)? – self-check).

Special Prize – Juraj Lorinc – Fine anticritical moves by the black Queen, combined with active play of both Kings in two phases is often named “Diagonal/orthogonal correspondence”.

a) 1.Sf7 Qf5 2.Kf4 Ke7 3.Qd8+ Ke6#; b) 1.Sc6 Qc4 2.Kd3 Kd6 3.Qe7+ Kd5#

Cosme Brull Mayol

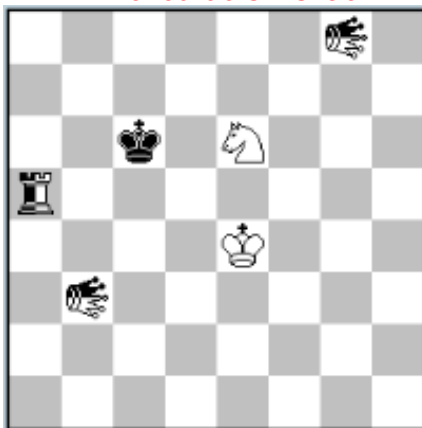
Spain
“Danka - 90 MT” - 2012
1st Honourable Mention



HS=4 2 solutions (2+3)
Circe Parrain
Grasshoppers – g2, g1

Eric Huber

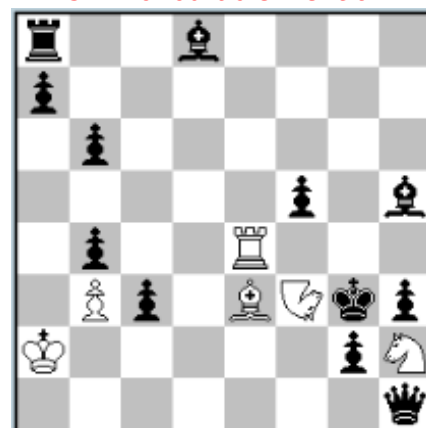
Romania
“Danka - 90 MT” - 2012
2nd Honourable Mention



HS#2,5 2 solutions (2+1+3)
Take&Make
Circe Parrain

Sven Trommler

Germany
“Danka - 90 MT” - 2012
3rd Honourable Mention



HS#3 3 solutions (6+12)
Nightrieder – f3

1st Honourable Mention Cosme Brull Mayol – Fine Chameleon-echo mates after not so difficult play but with three very nice typical effects in the finales, where white K-moves are impossible because of illegal self-check.

I. 1.Qe1 Gg6 2.Kxg2 Kh6 (Gh3) 3.Kxh3 Kh5 (Gh2) 4.Qh4+ Gxh4=(not 5.Kh2(Qh3)?, 5.Kg3 (Qg4)? or 5.Kg2 (Qg3)?);
II. 1.Kxg3 Kh5 (Gh3) 2.Qxg2 Gh6(Sg5) 3.Kh2 Kh4 4.Qh3+ Gxh3=(not 5.Kh1(Qh2)?, 5.Kg2(Qg3)? or 5.Kg1(Qg2)?)

2nd Honourable Mention - Eric Huber – After specific sacrifices by the neutral Rook and white Knight there follow two nice finales with the neutral Locusts as main actors. The cream of the joke here is that in Take&Make Chess captures of Locusts are illegal because imitation of their moves is impossible!

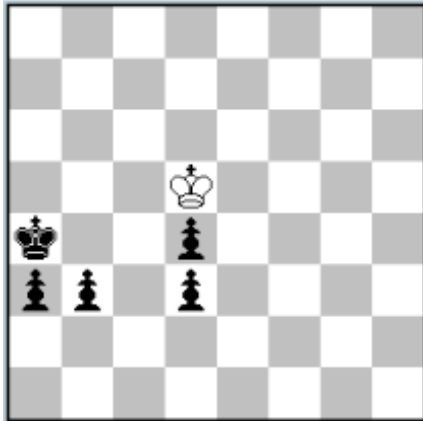
I. 1...nLObx6-g5 2.nRc5 [+wSg6] + Kd7 3.nLQxc5 nLOxg6-f3 #;
II. 1...nLOgx6-e7 + 2.Kf4 [+wSf6] nRh5 3.Sxh5-g5 nLOxg5-f5 #.

3rd Honourable Mention - Sven Trommler – Cyclic creation of white Indians with Rook, Bishop and Nightrider! Not a new idea but always intriguing and difficult to show. However here the black play is obviously not adequate aesthetically in its relation to the white strategy. The construction is also not perfect, with the technical cook-stopper Bh5.

I. 1.Nb5 a6 2. Rd4 Kxh2 3.Rg4+ axb5#;
II. 1.Bxb6 Bh4 2.Nd4 Kf2 3.Nxf5+ axb6#;
III. 1.Rxb4 a5 2.Bd4 Kf4 3.Bf2+ axb4#.

Karol Mlinka

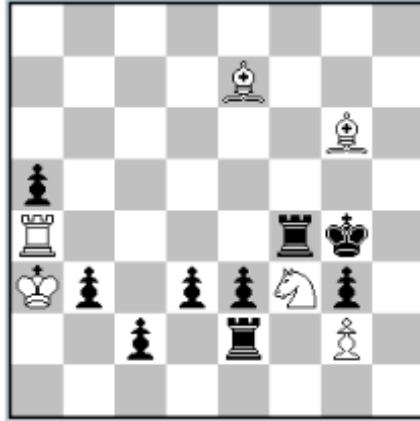
Slovakia
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
4th Honourable Mention



HS#4 2 solutions (1+5)
Chameleon Chess
Circe Turncoats

Pierre Tritten

France
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
5th Honourable Mention



HS#2 b) Black Bf4 (6+9)
Andernach Chess
Anti - Circe

Dieter Mueller

Germany
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Commendation



HS#3 b) + w.Sg4 (8+11)
Equihoppers - h2, h8

4th Honourable Mention - Karol Mlinka - A nice "Rex solus" problem with interesting mates after captures by the Chameleon in its Queen-phase, which changes its colour.

I. 1.Kxd4 (+wPd7) d2 2.d8=B d1=B 3.Bb6=R Be2=R 4.Rb4=Q+ Kxb4 (+bQd1) #;
II. 1.Kc4 Ka5 2.Kxb3 (+wPb7) a2 3.b8=R a1=Q 4.Rb5=Q + Kxb5 (+bQd1) #.

5th Honourable Mention - Pierre Tritten - Creation of masked white batteries, unpin of black pieces and switchbacks plus nice fairy effects. An ambitious programme, but there is no full thematic identity between the two phases.

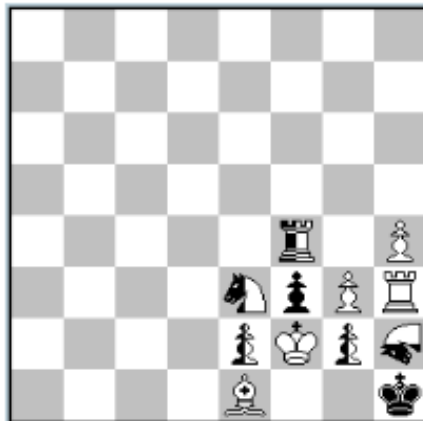
a) 1. Bb4! Rf8 2.Bxa5 (+bl. Bc1)+ Rf4#;
b) Sd4 Bb8 2.Sxc2 (+blSb1)+ Bf4#;

Commendation - Dieter Mueller - Creation of specific anti-batteries using black Equihoppers and with pins by the white Queen. A nonstandard mechanism, but the construction is heavy.

a) 1.Qc8 Kd2 2.Be2 Se5 + 3.Qc3 + Kxe2 #;
b) 1.Qh6 Kd4 2.Se5 Se2 + 3.Qd2 + Kxe5 #.

Juraj Lorinc

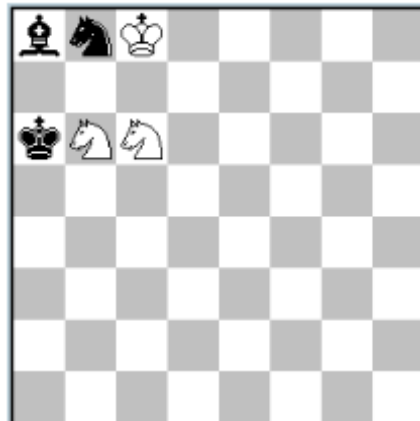
Slovakia
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Commendation



HS#3* (5+2+5)
MAO - h2

Stephan Dietrich

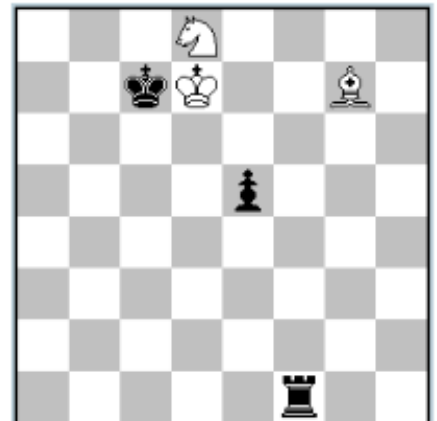
Germany
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Commendation



HS#3 b) Black Ra8 (3+3)
PWC

Jaroslav Stun

Slovakia
"Danka - 90 MT" - 2012
Commendation



HS#5 duplex (3+3)
Anti - Koko

Commendation - Juraj Lorinc - An ANI-problem with two phases presenting surprising promotions. A good achievement, but here the set-play seems thematically better than the actual solution. Set-play:

1...g1=nMA 2.nSf1 exf1=nMA 3.gxf4 nMAxh3#;
1. nRe4 fxg2 2. nRxe3 g1=S 3. nMAf1+ Sxh3#.

Commendation - Stephan Dietrich - An aristocratic miniature with nice but thematically not sufficiently deep play.

a) 1.Sxa8(Bb6) Bd8 2.Kxb8(Sc8) Sb6 3.Sc7+ Bxc7(Sd8)#
b) 1.Sa7 Rxa7(Sa8) 2.Sc4 Sc6 3.Sc7+ Txc7(Sa7)#.

Commendation - Jaroslav Stun - Two difficult solutions with interesting activity by both Kings but here the repetition of some moves in both phases is disturbing.

I. 1.Bh8 e4 2.Ke6 Rb1 3.Kf7 Kxd8 4.Kf8 Rb8 5.Bf6+ Kd7#;
II. 1.e4 Bh6 2.Rf8 Ke6 3.Rh8 Kf7 4.Kd6 Kf6 5.Rf8+ Bxf8#.

Sofia, January, 2012